GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1666
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
USE OF SYNTHETIC FLAVOURS COLOURS IN SOFT DIRINKS
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Central Government to ensure that the various artificial colours and flavouring agents particularly those manufactured by the Small Scale Industries which are at present being indiscriminately used not only in soft drinks but also in confectionary, strictly adhere and comply with the provisions of the Food Products Norms;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaints in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to discourage the use of such synthetic flavours and colouring agents?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) As per the provisions of Fruit products Order, 1955, only permitted artificial / synthetic colours or a mixture thereof can be used in specified fruit products including soft drinks in specified quantities. The permitted artificial / synthetic colours when used in food products shall be pure and free from all impurities. Further, under the provision of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, all the manufactures, whether in small scale or large scale have to manufacture the synthetic / artificial food colours under compulsory certification scheme of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and are require to conform to the specification laid down under these rules. As per the labeling provisions prescribed under PFA Rules 1955, it is mandatory to declare on the label of the food products, the use of synthetic food colours and added flavours, as the case may be, if used in any food product. PFA Rules, 1955, also provide the list of prohibited flavours, which cannot be used in any food products.

(b) Any complaint in this regard are looked into by the concerned regulatory authority who implement Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Fruits Products Order 1955 and action initiated for violation.

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to discourage the use of such synthetic flavours and colouring agents?